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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

17 December 1964

South Vietnam: The Buddhist leadership, while proceeding with its phased campaign against the Huong government, shows some willingness to engage in negotiations.

Tri Quang, the most influential of the Buddhist leaders currently arrayed against Huong, has indicated to US Embassy officials an interest in talking things over with Chief of State Suu and members of the High National Council.

Fram Chau, number two man in the Buddhist leadership, is reported to have expressed willingness to negotiate with the government and a hope that US officials would serve as intermediaries. Chau's reported terms for a settlement are removal of high Diemist officials from the government and setting a date for convocation of a national assembly)

The Buddhists, in their successful campaign against the Diem regime, also showed themselves open to negotiations, which they invariably turned to their advantage. Although Tri Quang and the other Buddhist leaders may again be following the same strategy, it is just possible that they may have some doubts about their ability to generate broad popular support and, therefore, may be looking for a face-saving solution.

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Pakistan: President Ayub's campaign for reelection on 2 January is encountering a strong challenge from the combined opposition candidate, Miss Fatima Jinnah.

The votes will be cast by 80,000 electors who were chosen in country-wide balloting last month. They are not legally bound to vote for any specific candidate. One of the more conservative opposition surveys estimates that Miss Jinnah will win about 55 percent of the votes.

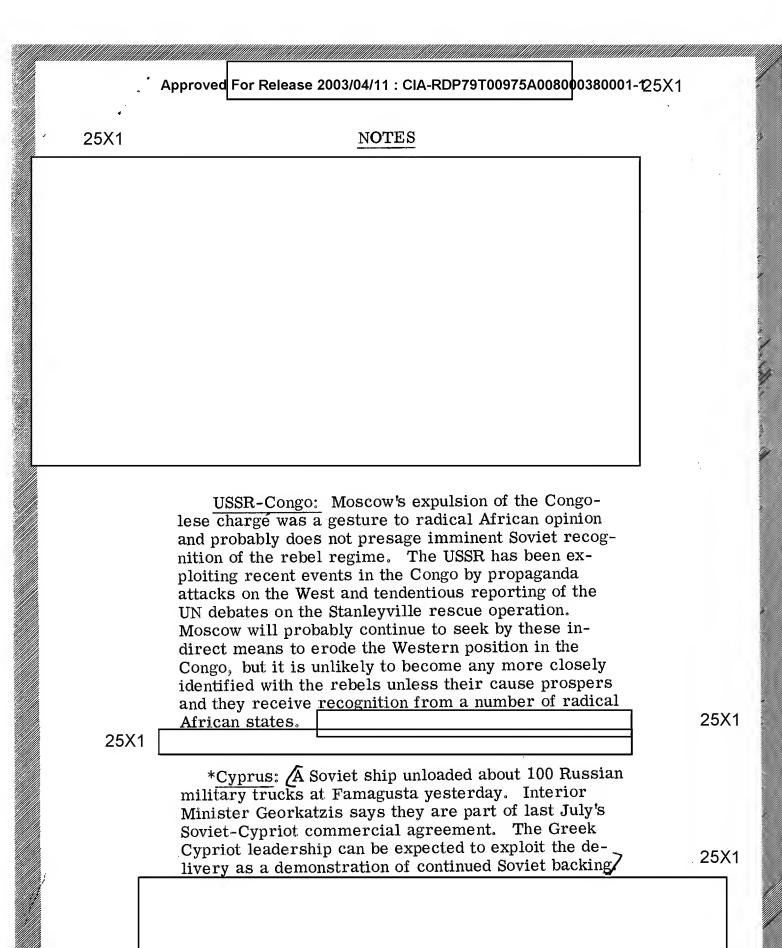
Before the badly divided opposition parties persuaded Miss Jinnah to be their joint candidate, prospects of unseating Ayub were considered hopeless. In recent weeks, however, the opposition's new found unity has encouraged more intense agitation against Ayub's six-year-old rule. Recent statements by bar and press associations criticizing the regime may have helped her, and widespread student demonstrations against the regime may impress the electors with the depth of hostility toward Ayub.

As both sides exert pressure on the electors in the next two weeks, Ayub has the advantage of commanding all the powers of the administration. This tips the scales in his favor, but the possibility of an upset victory by Miss Jinnah cannot be entirely dis-

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